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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE  
WINTHROP, IOWA



## YOUNG BROWN THRASHERS

From a sepia painting by Althea R. Sherman. Reprinted from the book, "Birds of an Iowa Dooryard," through courtesy of the publishers, the Christopher Publishing House, Boston, Mass.

## SOME LETTERS OF ALTHEA SHERMAN

By MARGARET MORSE NICE

5725 Harper Avenue  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

For 35 years an extraordinary woman watched birds in her country home in eastern Iowa. Althea Sherman was tireless in her search for truth; neither tedium nor suffering deterred her. She devised nesting boxes with peep-holes in barn and blind and she built a special chimney where the home life of Chimney Swifts could be followed with precision. When other ornithologists were copying ancient guesses as to incubation periods, she timed individual eggs from the minute they were laid to the minute they hatched.

The publication of her posthumous book—"Birds of an Iowa Dooryard" (1952. Christopher, Boston) — prompted me to look through the letters I received from her from 1921 to 1932 and to share some of their contents with other bird students. We find in them supplementary information on a few species treated in her book, data on the Mourning Dove, the chapter which she never finished, and some insight into her methods of working and her struggles to achieve the book of her dreams.

My correspondence with Miss Sherman started in 1921 when I wrote to her inquiring about the exceptional length of fledging of two Mourning Doves — 18 and 19 days — reported by her in the "Condor." I received a long and detailed letter in which she made me happy by saying: "I am glad there is another woman to join our ranks who is doing serious study." This was the beginning of a close and inspiring friendship. We met but twice — at A.O.U. meetings in Chicago in 1922 and in Detroit in 1931.

Miss Sherman was born in 1853. After a good classical education at Oberlin College, where she also received her M.A., she taught art in school and college until 1895 when she returned home to nurse her parents. Soon after this she started her intensive studies of the birds of her home place. It became her ambition to write a book on the life histories of these birds, illustrated with her own drawings. From 1910 to 1913 she published three remarkable studies of the home life of hole-nesting species—Flicker, Sparrow Hawk and Screech Owl, as well as a report on seven years' feeding of Hummingbirds, and in 1915 and 1916 a fascinating account of her travels in Egypt, India, Palestine and Greece with descriptions of art and architecture as well as of birds. After that her contributions to the bird journals, although numerous, were brief and many of them controversial. In 1921 — at the age of 68 — she was full of hope that she could attain her goal, and she advised me not to publish piecemeal, but reserve my studies for book form. Apropos of the A.O.U. meeting that year, she wrote: "Now preparation for publication of my studies of birds I deem more urgent than attendance of meetings with all the pleasure they afford."

In regard to her methods of work: "In my studies of hole-nesting birds I find much, *very much* that evidently is guess work, even by ornithologists of note. These guessing blunders are so frequent that it seems futile to try to point them out. To my utmost I try to see correctly (this is not very hard in case of hole-nesting species, having nest activities 16 to 20 inches from my eyes and in a good light). After having seen I try to describe what I have seen." This reminds us of Emerson's statement that "the greatest thing a human soul ever does in this world is to see something and tell what it saw in a plain way."

Dec. 30, 1921: "I am old and am very slow, yet within a year I manage to do considerable work. I must keep abreast of the times in world affairs and read the scientific magazines that come to me, so I read while combing



my hair, when eating and when resting, but I have written nothing on my bird histories since early last spring."

Two and a half years later Mrs. H. J. Taylor spent a day and night with her, a visit she describes in her fine account of Miss Sherman in "Iowa Bird Life" for June, 1943. After a banquet prepared by her hostess, they watched the Chimney Swifts in their artificial tower, looked at Miss Sherman's drawings and paintings till half-past one in the morning, then visited the bats in the window-blinds. Yet soon after dawn they went to the barn to watch the Flickers! "She was the busiest woman I ever knew and she accomplished the most," p. 27. (Miss Sherman wrote me that the visit was "a joy, a pleasure always to be remembered.")

Aug. 9, 1922, she wrote me: "Your work, study and excursions as outlined in your last letter are most interesting. It is fine to be young and able to do all sorts of things, and I say one should enjoy them as much as possible in the season when there is zest for such things, since if we are lucky enough to live to old age the time will come when great activity is no longer possible, or we may be tied to people or position, or place utterly repugnant to us." And again she wrote: "Do everything that you want to do before you are old."

Apropos of my telling her of my new-found interest in ferns, she warned: "With a family of growing children it is fine to know every thing, to be interested in every thing, but we can excel in but a very limited number. If I may be permitted a word of caution it would be — Don't spread over too large a field."

As to her favorite, the Flicker — "the most interesting of the hole-nesting birds I have ever watched," on Aug. 9, 1922, she wrote: "Twenty-five years ago Flickers were nesting in the barn, and this year they nested in the same hole once more. Life with them has been about as intimate as possible, yet year by year they show some new or unfamiliar trait. This summer I have watched the career of a defective male." (See p. 85 in her book.) Later she told me: "If I could have only one family of birds saved from destruction I should choose the woodpecker, since they have given me more pleasure than any other. The Northern Flicker has provided me with more notes and more amusement than any other species."

In 1926 there were "two successful Flicker nests in the barn, the first time <sup>two</sup> have been fruitful. Had two also of Traill's Flycatcher." Dec. 29, 1927: "Two pairs of Flickers nested in the barn, the females from both nests deserted their young; after an absence of about ten days one came sneaking back and helped 'carry on'."

Several items on Chimney Swifts add information to that in her book. In 1927 "the Chimney Swift laid *eight eggs*, an unprecedented record I believe. For the first time in two years I saw clearly the laying of two sticks; 55 or more days were taken in building the nest." (Bent, 1940, U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull., 176:275, says "The Chimney Swift lays three to six eggs, more commonly four or five.")

Dec. 20, 1928: "You may recall that I have written that I have found perfect behavior (even according to human standards) among Chimney Swifts. Last summer there was a terrible scandal in the Swift's chimney. A profligate female seduced the male, ousted the wedded mate, even after part of her eggs were laid. But the discarded mate did not leave. Whether there was thunder, lightning and rain or fair weather I did not fail a single night to visit the chimney and note what was taking place."

Because of my interest in Mourning Doves many of our letters discussed this species. On May 12, 1921, Miss Sherman wrote: "At the time of my first letter to you I was about to start on my notes on the Mourning Dove. Along with the study of my own notes I go over the literature on the species that I have at home." "During incubation I have found change of sitters on the nest



ALTHEA R. SHERMAN IN 1916  
Reprinted from June, 1943, issue of "Iowa Bird Life".

taking place about 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The height of nests ranged from 2 feet, 2½ feet, 3 feet, up to 10 feet from the ground. One reason is that our doves build so largely on top of other birds' nests." Miss Sherman took great care not to disturb the doves and she found that "the successful nests here greatly exceed the failures." The duration from the start of incubation to fledging lasted the following number of days: 28, 29, 30, 30, 30, 30, 31, 34. The average age of leaving the nest was at least 15 days. Young were fed for two or more weeks after leaving the nests. There were seven nests in September, two of which failed. In the others the young left Sept. 6, 13, 18, 21, and 22.

How was it going with her life histories? Too much housework; too many distractions in the way of campaigns.

Dec. 30, 1921: "In an evil hour I agreed to canvass Iowa in the country-wide campaign to increase the membership of the Wilson Ornithological Club." Nov. 14 to Dec. 22 was devoted to this project, \$11.39 spent and \$12.50 gained for W.O.C. "I remember three hard days of work early in 1921 for the National Association of Audubon Societies." On Aug. 9, 1922, she wrote: "In your May letter you expressed the hope that the writing of my life histories was progressing. I trust that writing will soon be resumed. The campaign for the Wilson Club last year, followed by the folly of a promise of a brief bit for Iowa Conservation are both past and I am free once more. I am enclosing a reprint of the latter mentioned error. The 'brief bit' was dropped for this 'A National Bird Day'\* when I read the set of resolutions our Conservation Association passed. I spent far too much time on the thing. Counting the

\* Iowa Conservation, 6(2):26-28. Reprinted in the Condor, 25, 1923(1):15-20.

botanists in Cattells' 'American Men of Science' took time, as did the search through the Auk and Bird-Lore, and of course I reread much of John Burroughs."

Nov. 23, 1924: "You wish for the progress of my bird histories and I wish that your wishes were powerful; not a stroke has been done since last winter."

In April 1925, she reported that "The winter went with little writing done. I have nearly finished the Phoebe and a little more."

The last time she mentioned her life histories was on Mar. 10, 1926. In regard to a "Who's Who" column in the Wilson Bulletin, stating that she wrote in winter, she told me: "That is what I hope to do and do do sometimes, but not a line have I written this winter." Instead she sewed. "Like you I rebel against spending time on menial tasks that I ought to hire another to do, but there has been no one to hire."

At this time she resolved to conserve energy by limiting herself to one letter a year to each of her friends, but cards did not count. Much of her strength went into her crusade against the House Wren, but the "wren-demented world" paid little heed. In the next seven years she wrote often of the decreasing numbers of birds, due partly to the drying up of the land, partly to the increase of House Wrens, Bronzed Grackles and Screech Owls. "1926 is the poorest year for birds I know about." "In 1928 I tried hard to do my bird study as thoroughly as ever and believe I succeeded. I was greatly depressed by the reduced number of birds. On eight days I spent delightful hours with LeConte's Sparrows. Two new species were added to my list—Nelson's Sparrow and Pectoral Sandpiper."

May 25, 1931: "Here the ever-diminishing number of birds is a cause for melancholy. However, Catbirds form an exception; there are three to four times as many of them as I would choose to have."

With the help of neighbor boys she was able to eliminate some enemies. At last, with no House Wrens about, the Yellow Warbler was able to raise a brood.

May 30, 1932: "No Screech Owls are heard this spring in our neighborhood and the depression that has fallen on bird life in my locality seems to be lifting. Already there are better times. A few days ago a Phoebe came, a Baltimore Oriole has built a nest here (both of these species were wiped out by Screech Owls). The Grackles drove off the Kingbirds, but last year they nested down in the willows and are there again this year. The Grackles destroy or drive off the Chipping Sparrows . . . I certainly fight hard to protect good birds from their enemies."

Finally, apropos of the lack of discrimination shown by ornithologists between sincere and superficial work, she asked: "Why can so few people be induced to *study* birds? And to read about them when studies about them are published?"

Her own studies filled 60 note-books, but comparatively little of this has seen the light of publication. In "Birds of an Iowa Dooryard" seven articles have been reprinted: the notable studies on the nesting of Screech Owl, Sparrow Hawk and Flicker, the experiments with Hummingbirds and three shorter ones. Three of her carefully prepared papers for bird meetings are included: nesting studies of House Wren (1915) and Chimney Swift (1922) and general observations on Short-billed Marsh Wrens (1931). The eight chapters she prepared especially for the book deal with many birds, the most detailed being on the Phoebe. The editor, Fred J. Pierce, was able to do little with her voluminous notes, except for ten pages of excerpts on the Chimney Swift.

We are fortunate in having this fraction of her studies, even if it is but a shadow of what she hoped to do. Why did she never achieve her life's ambi-



tion? There were two chief reasons: her time was frittered away in activities of lesser importance, and the task was intrinsically too great.

The drudgery of housework, illnesses and the infirmities of age, the distractions of visitors (many of them mere curiosity-seekers), her burning zeal to uphold the truth and to protect "good birds" from bad—all these made heavy inroads on her time. It is a tragic thing that a woman of her intellect, gifts and character should have had to spend so much time in manual labor that she could not give her message to the world. This problem is an increasingly serious one in our civilization. Our highly-educated, gifted women have to be cooks, cleaning women, nurse maids. Men who could do notable research have their time wasted in mere routine. We who cherish things of the mind should face this evil and strive earnestly to give such men and women a chance to make the highest contribution to society of which they are capable.

Miss Sherman's undertaking in itself, begun late in life, was too great. Each nesting season brought back the birds and she could not resist the opportunity to increase her knowledge of their life histories. "There seems to be no end to the problems," she wrote me in 1923. "Flickers after 25 years of nesting in our barn presented an entirely new study last summer." If she had taken the advice she gave me — "Don't spread over too large a field," and if she had narrowed her aim to accomplishing first the most important studies, for example the Chimney Swift, and published this in one of the journals, it would have been a boon to ornithology. The very height of her ideal betrayed her. She was not able to present her findings to her fellow-students and to posterity in the form she so earnestly desired.

Nevertheless, we can be grateful for this good sample of her work contained in "Birds of an Iowa Dooryard," and we are much indebted to Mr. Pierce for making it available. After reading this book, Louise de Kiriline Lawrence wrote: "What a wonderful naturalist and bird student, what amazing originality of methods, what meticulousness in her research, what a grandiose sense of humor!" Althea Sherman's life is an inspiration to us, but also a warning. We must decide wisely upon the work we most want to do; then follow our path with the courage of our convictions, refusing to be diverted by the clamor and confusion of less important demands.

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## THE PINE SISKIN AS A WINTER RESIDENT AT SIOUX CITY

By WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH  
SIOUX CITY, IOWA

Most of our published bird records for the Sioux City region began about 1916, when the late Dr. T. C. Stephens, professor of biology at Morningside College for 40 years, A. F. Allen, editor of the Sioux City Journal for many years, and W. J. Hayward, longtime Sioux City merchant, formed a bird-watching triumvirate and continued this enjoyable hobby for many years. Their usual scene of action was Stone Park, which was reached by taking a street car to North Riverside and then walking up the Sioux River road, with often a detour up Cardinal Glen and then back into Stone Park. This is fine winter-bird country, and Stone Park with an area of nearly 900 acres is of course a sanctuary for birds and animals. These winter field trips were all-day affairs, with lunches carried and coffee made over an open fire. Dr. Stephens often told me that the winter field trips with his two talented friends were restful, inspiring and helped him prepare for a hard week ahead.

All three of these men were capable bird students and they knew their birds well. From their observations the idea gradually evolved that the Pine

Siskin was not a continuous winter resident because it was almost never recorded during the bitter cold of most Januarys. Most observers would report Siskins up to about Christmas time and then not report them again until early February; then they would be common in March. The writer spent many cold days in January tramping through areas where there were pine trees without ever recording a Pine Siskin in January.

The published writings of Dr. Stephens for 1916 and 1917, which include the records of his two companions, state that only two winter records had been made for the Siskin in the two years; he thought the bulk of Siskins passed to the south of us for the winter. During 1918, he states that he had seen a single bird on December 23 and Allen had seen one on December 30, but there were no other records for the year.

In the years 1919 and 1920, Mr. Allen had seen a few Pine Siskins at McCook Lake, South Dakota, in December and February only, for his winter records. From 1920 to 1922 there were apparently no actual winter records of the Pine Siskin that came to Dr. Stephens' attention.

Our next active Sioux City observer was Charles J. Spiker, who continued the winter bird series. In his reports on the years 1922 to 1926, Spiker states that a few Pine Siskins were found in the winter; though during the winter of 1926 the species was abundant, probably for the first time in his record book. He does not state, however, how many were actually seen during the month of January. The present writer continued the Sioux City winter series for 1926 to 1930. During this period he had records up to the cold weather and during February, but none for the month of January.

Dr. Wilfred D. Crabb was the next in line to carry on the winter series, and his work covered the long period from 1930 to 1938. He lists the Pine Siskin as a rather uncommon winter visitor, and coming very early in the spring — a statement on which all preceding observers were in complete agreement. His most interesting record states that Mrs. J. A. Dales banded a Siskin in Sioux City, January 15, 1938, which is probably the only January banding record for the species in this area. Both Mrs. Dales and Mrs. M. L. Bailey did a great deal of winter field work in Sioux City, but I have never heard either one of them mention records of the Pine Siskin in mid-winter.

Prof. Jean Laffoon was the series man for the period of 1938 to 1941. He was a diligent field man and yet his report contained not a single Pine Siskin for the winter months and only one record for whole period; this was a report by Prof. Herrold Asmussen on December 22, 1940, from Riverside Park, Sioux City. The series was continued by Dr. T. C. Stephens and the writer from 1941 to 1947. Here we find the first real break in our argument, that Pine Siskins don't hold to this area during the sub-zero ordeal. For during the winter of 1945-1946, Miss Zell C. Lee and Miss Gertrude Weaver found upward of 200 Siskins feeding in Logan Park Cemetery, Sioux City.

The answer lies in the fact that if the source of food is sufficient, any species of bird will remain in a given area in spite of the weather. We have had fine growing conditions in the Sioux City region for the last 10 years, and the pine and spruce trees of Logan Park Cemetery have grown tremendously in size. The resulting pine-cone crop from big mature trees has been abundant enough to enable many dozens of Pine Siskins to winter in the cemetery. William Reid Felton, Jr., and I made a trip to the cemetery in late January 1952, the day following -10 degree temperatures. We found dozens of Pine Siskins busily feeding in the spruce trees and seemingly having come through the bitter cold without any trouble, as we didn't find any dead birds.

In conclusion we must agree that as times change, conditions also change even in such lowly things as bird-watching. The population of many of our fine birds decreases each year through the persecution of man by gun, burning, spraying with poisons, stringing more wires for breaking birds' necks,



and the like. By introducing such needless species as English Sparrows and Starlings to further deplete our native birds, and by damming rivers and flooding nesting areas for millions of song birds, we are reducing the numbers of many fine species. The Three Musketeers of Sioux City bird study, Stephens, Allen and Hayward, probably would not want to walk the old River Road together, as they did of yore, for now the smell of mink ranches permeates the clean air, more and more land is being cleared, and more shacks put up along a once beautiful lane where trees formed an overhead archway.

We seriously doubt if Frank Allen could have ever written the following fine account of his two friends, after walking down the River Road as it is shaping up today. This is a summation of the building of the camp fire at the end of their field trip, while in search of Pine Siskins and Red-Breasted Nuthatches:

"When the job has been done and the blaze is crackling merrily, with what deep contentment, with what profound satisfaction, does not the architect contemplate the work of his hand. How comfortable it is to draw a log close to the blaze and sit thereon, and, while munching the sandwich drawn from the pocket of the coat, to absorb the gentle warmth and discuss with one's friend the mysteries of the woods, and try to picture for him some of the impressions which have been implanted upon the mind during the morning's walk.

"Under the genial influence of the heat from the fire, the heart expands and grows warm, and its doors are opened wider, and friendly intimacies are exchanged. At such times the artificial barriers which we erect about ourselves disappear and the real man steps forth and is revealed.

"If you would know your friend and appreciate him, walk with him in the winter woods, and sit with him for a moment in the glowing heat of his campfire. It is an experience to be prized."

## THE FALL MEETING

On Sunday, September 14, members and friends of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union met at noon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Sage, northeast of Waterloo, for the sixth annual fall meeting. The Waterloo Bird Club, as host, planned and made all arrangements for the occasion. The weatherman provided an ideal day — clearing skies and fairly cool temperature. Those attending amply provided a complete dinner from laden picnic baskets, supplemented by ice cream and coffee, furnished by our hosts.

A short business meeting followed the dinner, President Albert Berkowitz presiding. Appreciation and thank-you's were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Sage and the Waterloo Bird Club, Dr. Myrle Burk, President, who made our fall meeting another memorable occasion. There was a short discussion concerning the addition of species to our proposed revised check-list. Dr. Burk named leaders and gave directions to favorite birding spots in the vicinity for those anxious to get out in the field. Dr. J. H. Ennis reminded the group of the Spring Convention to be held at Cornell College. He also requested members to turn in old issues of "Iowa Bird Life" so that complete sets of issues would be available. He stated that a library in Belgium had ordered such a set. The President read communications regarding "Lunar Studies of Bird Migration" and "The Menace of Vertical Lights to Bird Migration". Several letters of regret from members who were unable to attend were read. A large number explored woods and field areas about Crane Creek for fall birds before returning home.—MRS. GEORGE CROSSLEY.

**Attendance Register.**—BOONE, Mrs. M. L. Jones; CEDAR FALLS, Ann Adkins, Verna Davis, Mrs. Lola Deal, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Dempster, Myra Ross Dempster, Dr. & Mrs. M. L. Grant, Lois Grant, Lillian Ross, Mrs. Russell Rugg,

R. M. Rugg, Mrs. Chas. Schwanke, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Tay, Elizabeth Wartman; CEDAR RAPIDS, Lavina Dragoo, Lillian Serbousek, Myra Willis; DAVENPORT, Jim Hodges, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Swain, Betty Swain, Mrs. Pete Petersen, Pete Petersen, Jr.; DES MOINES, Abby Berkowitz, Albert Berkowitz, Woodward Brown; DUBUQUE, Henry Herrmann, Clifford Johnson, Robert Johnson; DUNKERTON, Donald Sage, Elaine Sage, Bill Sage, Bob Sage, Ernest Sage, Tom Sage, Rosemary Sage, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest E. Sage, Jim Sage; FARLEY, Mr. and Mrs. George Crossley; LeMARS, Dorothy Marcue; LAPORTE CITY, Ida May Wade; MT. VERNON, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Ennis; NEWTON, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Moore, Larry Moore, Sammy Moore, Ivan Moore; POSTVILLE, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Palas, Fritz Palas, Gretchen Palas; WATERLOO, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Anderson, David Anderson, Martha Anderson, Pauline Bassarear, Helen Bassarear, Dr. Myrle Burk, Mrs. Augusta Burk, Lynn Burk, Wanda Daum, Lorraine Hollowell, Helen Hawkins, Ettalee Hazlett, Jack Heifner, Roger Moon, Seaton Moon, Jr., Betty Moon, Carrie Neidy Leora Pierce, Pearl Rader, Marguerite Reese, Mrs. Evan Sage, Verona Schmidt, Harry Schmidt, Jean Swenson, Victor Swenson; WINTHROP, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Pierce; EAST MOLINE, ILL., Mr. and Mrs. Elton Fawks, David Fawks; MOLINE, ILL., Don Swenson; OWATONNA, MINN., Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Becker. Total registered, 91.

#### GENERAL NOTES

**Florida Gallinule at Swan Lake.**—On June 17, 1951, while wading around in Swan Lake, Johnson County, Dick Lorenz, Norwood Hazard and I flushed a bird from a nest in the cattails. We were not certain of its identity but thought it was a Coot or Florida Gallinule. The nest, only a few inches above the water and well concealed in a lone clump of cattail, contained nine white eggs spotted with brown. The following day we returned to try to photograph the bird, but it was not at the nest and did not return while we were there. Dick did get a quick glimpse of it in the rushes and thought he saw red on the bill.

I returned to the nest on July 1 and found five eggs and two downy black young with the characteristic red on the bills. They immediately swam off, but I caught one and took it ashore to photograph and to prove to my doubting companions (Dad and Dr. Pepernik) that it really was a Florida Gallinule. The following day Norwood and I watched a young bird hatch. It would peck with rhythmic beats which became more frequent as it worked its way out of the shell. When finally out of the shell it tried to get into the water at once, even before its down was dry.

Later visits to the Lake failed to disclose any of the family, but we did not wonder as the vegetation was so dense and extensive that many a bird could easily stay out of sight of a noisy, splashing intruder.—TOM KENT.

#### NOTES ON GALLINULES AT SWAN LAKE IN 1952.

Gallinules were seen at Swan Lake on 22 occasions from May 26 to Sept. 21 and we had evidence of at least three nestings.

Early in June a pair was seen at the west end of the lake and finally the nest was located in cattails about 60 feet from shore on June 7. Wading out to it on June 10, we found 10 eggs. The birds seemed quite tame, one swimming about in open water in the near vicinity and the other when flushed from the nest would stay near until the intruder left and then come back promptly to the nest. An effort was made on June 22 to photograph the bird on the nest from a canoe, but apparently the bright metal of the canoe was not good concealment even with a 30-ft. release cord to the camera. On June 30 the hatch was in progress with eggs still in the nest and several downy





FLORIDA GALLINULE'S NEST CONTAINING 10 EGGS  
Photographed by Fred W. Kent, June 22, 1952.

young nearby. The young easily got lost from sight until we left, and then appeared when the old bird came back to the nest and called them in.

Another nest was located from a canoe at the east end of the lake on June 22. It was built in bent-over bur-reed and contained 2 eggs. On July 10 it was found again with considerable difficulty and had nine eggs. No further notes were made on this nest as we did not cover the lake in canoe or waders. We had occasional glimpses of adults in bits of open water, but the vegetation was so heavy there was little chance of locating the broods if they were there. On September 6, in the rushes very near shore, an adult was feeding four small downy young which could hardly have been a week old. To us it was a bit of a surprise to find such a late brood. We saw them again on September 21 but there were only three young and one of them was much larger than the other two. It was feeding energetically on its own, but the other two were still begging food from the adult. They seemed rather tiny birds to mature in time to migrate or escape the opening of duck season.—FRED W. KENT, Iowa City, Iowa.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Nesting in Northwest Iowa.**—Since the only recent nesting record of this species in Iowa is one of about 20 years ago made by Kenneth R. Nelson in Polk County and recorded in DuMont's Birds of Iowa, it was with considerable pleasure that we found nesting sapsuckers in the Wanata State Forest in Buena Vista County, near Peterson, Iowa, on June 15, 1951.

We were making a field trip to this state forest and had just parked the car, when we saw a male sapsucker gathering food. It wasn't long until we also saw the female and soon afterward located the nest hole in a large tree just west of the stone shelter house. The young were very noisy, and as the adults were tame, we spent about an hour watching them carry food to the nest. Much of the food was caught on the wing in flycatcher fashion, and the rest was picked off the bark of the trees.

The Wanata State Forest is an area which bears further watching and much field work, as the timber is heavy and ideal for certain nesting warb-



lers and other small birds. This general area has not been worked for birds since Ira N. Gabrielson was doing his apprentice work from his base at Sioux Rapids, and many changes have come about since then. It is to be regretted that some local bird student isn't a resident in the area so that it could be covered at all seasons and a good bird list compiled. I think a careful observer could find some rare nesting birds in this area.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

**Watching a Hawk Flight in Minnesota.**—It was my privilege during September to spend a full day with members of the Duluth Bird Club on a hawk census. The main group of the bird club met at Hawk Hill some distance to the west of Duluth, but I was with Prof. P. B. Hofslund, of the University of Minnesota branch at Duluth, on another hill just above the city during an entire morning. Iowa members will be glad to know that the Minnesota group feel they have stopped almost entirely the indiscriminate slaughter of hawks which formerly took place at Hawk Hill. The flight was not as heavy as last year, according to Professor Hofslund, but he thought that a week later there would be many more hawks. Unfortunately I was going home, so I didn't get to see the huge flocks of Broad-wings. We did see approximately 600 hawks, a number of which were unidentified; these included Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Goshawk, Pigeon, Sparrow, Duck, Red-tailed, Broad-winged and Marsh Hawks. The first two named made up the bulk of the flight that we witnessed. We saw many Broad-wings and a great many Marsh Hawks, but no vultures and no Red-shouldered Hawks. I saw several Ospreys and one Bald Eagle. I was also glad to see my first Pileated Woodpecker flying below the hills in bright sunlight. Several times Sharp-shins flew very near to us and we witnessed many terrific stoops into the valley.

Professor Hofslund feels that Duluth is equal to Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania for opportunities to see hawks. He would very much like to have Iowans join them in the hawk census each year if they happen to be traveling in that part of Minnesota.—RUSSELL HAYS, Waterloo, Iowa.

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#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Drs. Frank and Mary (Mr. and Mrs.) Roberts, now of Corona, California, recently made a fine contribution to the IOU Library with the following books: Anderson's "Birds of Iowa", Musgrove's "Waterfowl in Iowa", Bailey's "Raptorial Birds of Iowa", Commons' "Log of Tanager Hill", Lincoln's "Manual for Bird Banders", and several pamphlets and regional lists excerpted from journals. Dr. Frank is making a steady recovery from a severe illness suffered about a year ago, and we are hoping that both he and Mrs. Roberts can be with us at the Mt. Vernon convention next May.

Miss Zell C. Lee, who has long been a leading spirit in the Sioux City Bird Club, is now much improved in health. At the time of the spring convention she was a patient at the University Hospital at Iowa City. Her illness was a very serious one which kept her confined to her bed for many weeks. We are glad to report that she is back at her old work at a Sioux City bank and is regaining her health as the months pass. She is resuming her activity in the local bird club, a fact for which the other members are very grateful.

The Mirakel Repair Company, 14 West First St., Mt. Vernon, N. Y., has a very informative 12-page booklet entitled "Know Your Binoculars" which they have generously offered to send to any member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union who requests it. The booklet describes how to use, choose and check a binocular; it is unbiased and does not favor any manufacturer or make of glass. The only stipulation in this offer is that the person mention his or her membership in our Union when the request is made.

## MEMBERSHIP ROLL OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION\*

### CHARTER MEMBERS (1923)

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| (H) Bailey, Mrs. Mary L. Sioux City     | Palas, Arthur J., Postville          |
| Bennett, Walter W., Los Angeles, Calif. | Pierce, Fred J., Winthrop            |
| Kinnaird, Mrs. W. A., West Des Moines   | Spiker, Chas. J., Branchport, N.Y.   |
| Mills, Wier R., Pierson                 | Wendelburg, Mrs. Toni R., Des Moines |
|   | Wolden, B. O., Estherville           |

### MEMBERS

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| Adams, I. C. Jr., Columbia, Mo., 1941                            | Burk, Dr. Myrle M., Waterloo, 1949                           |
| Allert, Oscar P., McGregor, 1929                                 | Carl, Harry G., Davenport, 1948                              |
| Anderson, Dr. Rudolph M., Ottawa, Canada, 1942                   | Carson, L. B., Topeka, Kans., 1949                           |
| Andre, Mrs. Floyd, Ames, 1950                                    | Carter, Dennis, Webster City, 1947                           |
| Austin, Mrs. E. J., Charles City, 1942                           | Cedar Falls Audubon Society, Cedar Falls, 1952               |
| Austin, Dr. O. L., Tuckahoe, N. Y., 1931                         | (C) Cedar Rapids Bird Club, Cedar Rapids, 1947               |
| (S) Ayres, Charles C., Jr., Ottumwa, 1941                        | Christensen, Dr. Everett D. and Dr. Eunice M., Spencer, 1950 |
| Barlow, Mrs. John, Waterloo, 1942                                | Clampitt, Phillip, New Providence, 1949                      |
| Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. W. W., Sioux City, 1951                    | Connor, Mrs. Stephen, Sigourney '46                          |
| (S) Bartlett, Wesley H., Algona, '35                             | Copp, Miss C. Esther, Wheatland, '33                         |
| Bauder, Mrs. A., Decorah, 1951                                   | Crossley, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. E., Farley, 1948                 |
| Beals, Edward, Petersburg, Va., 1950                             | Crouter, Miss Frances, Cedar Falls, 1944                     |
| Becker, Mrs. Paul, Owatonna, Minn., 1951                         | Curry, Mrs. N. H., Ames, 1951                                |
| Berger, Bruce, Des Moines, 1952                                  | Dales, Mrs. Marie, Spokane, Wash., 1929                      |
| (S) Berkowitz, Mr. and Mrs. Albert C., Des Moines, 1943 and 1947 | Daubendiek, Miss Bertha, Mt. Clemens, Mich., 1951            |
| Bice, Mrs. Don C., Atlantic, '42                                 | Daubendiek, C. H., Jefferson, 1951                           |
| Binsfeld, Mrs. A. J., Des Moines, '47                            | Daum, Miss Wanda, Waterloo, 1947                             |
| Birdsall, E. R., Emerson, 1947                                   | DeLong, Mrs. W. C., Lamoni, 1939                             |
| (S) Birkeland, Henry, Roland, 1933                               | Dickey, Miss Margaret, Cedar Rapids, 1946                    |
| Bixler, Mrs. Ingram, Cedar Rapids, 1944                          | (J) Divoky, Robert E., Kansas City, Mo., 1950                |
| Bliese, John C. W., Ames, 1935                                   | Dix, Mrs. Ray S., Modesto, Calif., 1935                      |
| Bordner, Mrs. Robt. I., Shenandoah, 1929                         | (S) Dorweiler, Miss Margaret, Cedar Falls, 1945              |
| Boyd, Mrs. Ivan L., Baldwin, Kans., 1937                         | Dragoo, Lavina, Cedar Rapids, '29                            |
| Brandt, Dr. Herbert, Cleveland, Ohio, 1952                       | (S) Dubuque Audubon Club, Dubuque, 1933                      |
| Breckenridge, Mrs. R. W., Ames, 1951                             | Dulany, Geo. W., Jr., La Jolla, Calif., 1943                 |
| Brown, Mrs. Harold B., Grundy Center, 1950                       | DuMont, Mrs. W. G., Evanston, Ill., 1927                     |
| Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Woodward H., Des Moines, 1947                |  |
| Brunner, Miss Marjorie, Cedar Rapids, 1946                       |  |

\*Complete to November 1, 1952. Year of joining the Union follows the name of each member. All cities are within Iowa unless otherwise noted. The following key letters are used in the list:

(C)—Contributing Member.  
(H)—Honorary Member.

(J)—Junior Member.  
(S)—Supporting Member.

- DuMont, Philip A., Washington, D.C., 1924  
 (S) Dvorak, Joseph L., Chicago, Ill., 1947  
 Edgar, Mrs. G. P., Burlington, 1939  
 Edge, Mrs. C. N., New York, N.Y., '31  
 Edwards, Harry M., Sioux City, 1951  
 Ehlers, Mrs. John, Reinbeck, 1947  
 Elgin, Bob, Chariton, 1951  
 Elson, Mrs. Milo, Toddville, 1951,  
 Ennis, Mrs. Edna M., Tama, 1944  
 Ennis, Dr. J. Harold, Mt. Vernon, 1941  
 Errington, Dr. Paul L., Ames, 1932  
 Farquhar, Catharine, Atlantic, 1946  
 Faulkner, Geo. O., Waterloo, 1931  
 Fawks, Eldon, East Moline, Ill., 1950  
 (S) Feeney, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas J., Davenport, 1947  
 Felton, W. R., Jr., Sioux City, 1951  
 Field, H. P., Decorah, 1948  
 Findley, J. S., Sioux Falls, S. Dak., 1951  
 Fitzsimmons, C. S., Sibley, 1945  
 Flodin, Mrs. C. C., Cedar Rapids, '31  
 Fox, Adrian C., Lincoln, Nebr., 1950  
 Freeman, Earl, Sumner, 1949  
 Fritzsche, Carl R., Milwaukee, Wis., 1946  
 Funk, Ruth F., Independence, '40  
 Gibbs, Mrs. Ula, Farley, 1951  
 Giernot, Bruno B., Duluth, Minn., 1946  
 Goodman, John D., Redlands, Calif., 1941  
 Grant, Dr. Martin L., Cedar Falls, '37  
 Greer, Rev. Edward C., Davenport, 1948  
 Greer, Mrs. L. C., Iowa City, 1949  
 Gruwell, Mrs. W. R., Dubuque, 1952  
 Gutekunst, Angie, State Center, 1951  
 Guthrie, Richard A., Woodward, '39  
 Hall, Fred T., Buffalo, N.Y., 1949  
 Hallowell, Miss Loraine, Waterloo, 1932  
 Hansman, Robt. H., Fort Madison, '48  
 (J) Hasek, Ondre, Cedar Rapids, 1952  
 Hasek, Dr. V. O., Cedar Rapids, 1952  
 Haskell, Mrs. Lester W., Des Moines, 1952  
 Hathorn, Glen M., Center Point, 1934  
 Hayes, Warren, Waukon, 1952  
 Hayette, Miss Verona, Cedar Rapids, 1943  
 Hays, Russell M., Waterloo, 1947  
 Hazard, Norwood, Davenport, '47  
 Hedges, Harold C., Kansas City, Kans., 1946  
 Hendrickson, Dr. and Mrs. Geo. O., Ames, 1931 and 1944  
 Henning, Mrs. Burt, Decorah, 1951  
 Henning, Mrs. Tom, Decorah, '47  
 Herrmann, Henry, Dubuque, 1945  
 Heuer, Ralph, Davenport, 1940  
 Heuser, E. P., Dubuque, 1940  
 Hicks, Dr. Lawrence E., Columbus, Ohio, 1938  
 Hodges, James, Davenport, 1944  
 Hoyman, Miss Isabelle, Cedar Rapids, 1942  
 Jaques, H. E., Mt. Pleasant, 1947  
 Johnson, Clifford O., Dubuque, 1951  
 Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W., Ames, 1939 and 1927  
 Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Myrle L., Estherville, 1931 and 1941  
 Kalen, Wendell D., New Bern, N. Car., 1949  
 (S) Keck, Dr. Warren N., Naperville, Ill., 1936  
 Keenan, Jim, Ogden, 1948  
 Kent, Fred W., Iowa City, 1950  
 Kent, Tom, Iowa City, 1950  
 King, Mrs. J. Ray, Grundy Center, 1933  
 Knoop, Miss Pearl, Marble Rock, '37  
 Koziacky, Dr. Edward L., Ames, 1949  
 Kubichek, Wesley F., Alexandria, Va., 1941  
 Lahr, Mrs. H. W., Storm Lake, '43  
 Lambert, Mrs. Howard T., Sioux City, 1940  
 Laude, Dr. and Mrs. Peter P., Iowa City, 1942 and 1947  
 Lawlor, Mrs. Gene, Victor, 1948  
 Lawson, Miss Faye, Fairfield, 1945  
 Leaverton, Paul, Indianola, 1948  
 Lee, Miss Zell C., Sioux City, '43  
 Loban, Miss R. Lucile, San Clemente, Calif., 1948  
 Lunk, William A., Ann Arbor, Mich., 1950  
 Lynch, Mrs. A. C., Decorah, 1951  
 Lynch, Mrs. Percy, Independence, 1945  
 MacMartin, Mrs. W. G., Tama, 1932  
 Marcue, Miss Dorothy, Le Mars, 1952  
 McCabe, Miss Olivia, Des Moines, '32  
 (S) McCutcheon, James W., Mt. Vernon, 1946



- McDonald, Malcolm, Schenectady, N.Y., 1935  
 Melcher, Rev. M. C., Lisbon, 1939  
 (S) Meltvedt, Burton W., Paullina, 1931  
 (S) Meyer, Dr. Alfred W., Cedar Rapids, 1942  
 Mildestein, Mrs. E. J., Storm Lake, 1951  
 Miller, Dr. R. F., Baldwin, Kans. '49  
 Millikin, Mrs. Forrest G., Sigourney, 1944  
 Moore, Mr. and Mrs. John Paul, Newton, 1947 and 1949  
 Morrissey, Thos. J., Davenport, '40  
 Mote, Mr. and Mrs. G. A., Marshalltown, 1929  
 Musgrove, Mr. and Mrs. Jack W., Des Moines, 1938 and 1943  
 (J) Musgrove, Miss Jean, Des Moines, 1944  
 Myers, Mrs. Len, Waterloo, 1939  
 Nice, Mrs. Margaret M., Chicago, Ill., 1952  
 Nichols, Harvey L., Waterloo, 1929  
 Nickolson, Bob, Sioux City, 1949  
 (J) O'Brien, Jim, Newton, 1952  
 Ollivier, Roy, Mt. Pleasant, 1943  
 Osia, Miss Catherine, Humboldt, '46  
 (J) Palas, Fritz R., Postville, 1949  
 Parsons, Mrs. Robt. O. Dickens, 1942  
 Partridge, Wayne F., Oskaloosa, 1949  
 Peasley, Dr. and Mrs. Harold R., Des Moines, 1943 and 1934  
 Peters, Ivan, Tucson, Ariz., 1950  
 Petersen, Peter C., Jr., Davenport, 1952  
 Petersen, Mrs. Peter, Davenport, 1950  
 Petranek, Mr. and Mrs. E. J., Cedar Rapids, 1931  
 Pettingill, Dr. O. S., Northfield, Minn., 1937  
 Pickering, Mrs. Lawrence J., Red Oak, 1946  
 Pierce, Robert A., Nashua, 1941  
 (J) Pike, Robert G., Coggon, 1947  
 Pike, Walter E., Coggon, 1946  
 Polder, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett, Dubuque, 1948  
 Pregler, Mrs. Merrill, Dubuque, 1952  
 Prestegard, Miss Tillie, Sioux City, 1945  
 Purdy, Miss Ruth, Cedar Rapids, '43  
 Rader, Pearl, Waterloo, 1949  
 Rector, Harry E., Vinton, 1942  
 Reed, David, Dubuque, 1950  
 Reese, Miss Marguerite, Waterloo, 1952  
 Ressler, Miss Mildred E., Spirit Lake, 1949  
 Reynolds, Miss E. Estella, Des Moines, 1943  
 Richards, Miss Rose, Cedar Rapids, 1947  
 Roberts, Dr. F. L. R., Corona, Calif., 1924  
 Roberts, Dr. Mary Price, Corona, Calif., 1926  
 Robertson, Dr. C. W., Waterloo, 1947  
 Root, Oscar M., North Andover, Mass., 1951  
 Rosene, Walter, Jr., Gadsden, Ala., 1942  
 Ross, Hollis T., Lewisburg, Pa., '40  
 Ruegnitz, Mrs. R. S., Dubuque, 1942  
 Rugg, Mrs. Russell, Cedar Falls, '46  
 Ruhr, C. E., Nashville, Tenn., 1941  
 Sage, Evan, Waterloo, 1942  
 (H) Savage, David L., Mt. Pleasant, 1944  
 Schaefer, Richard, Davenport, 1948  
 Schmidt, Harry, Waterloo, 1952  
 Schramm, Frank H., Burlington, '34  
 (J) Schrody, David, Cedar Rapids, 1952  
 Schuster, Miss Ival M., Dubuque, '41  
 Schwanke, Mrs. Chas., Cedar Falls, 1948  
 Scott, Frederic R., Richmond, Va., 1950  
 Scott, Dr. Thos. G., Urbana, Ill., 1937  
 (S) Serbousek, Miss Lillian, Cedar Rapids, 1931  
 Shaub, Mrs. B. M., Northampton, Mass., 1949  
 Shields, Mrs. David H., Grinnell, '46  
 Shirk, Richard O., Oelwein, 1950  
 (S) Shuttleworth, Mrs. W. D., Sibley, 1945  
 Sieh, Jim, Okobojo, 1951  
 Smith, Miss Helen, Ames, 1951  
 Smith, Mrs. Rolland, Winthrop, 1952  
 Soots, Mrs. C. U., Ottumwa, 1951  
 Statler, Miss Shirley S., Washington, 1948  
 Steffen, Earnest W., Cedar Rapids, 1942  
 Stewart, Dr. Chas. A., New Albin, '44  
 Stewart, Paul A., Westerville, Ohio, 1943  
 Stiles, Bruce F., West Des Moines, 1937

- Stoner, Mrs. Lillian C., Albany, N.Y., 1945  
 Strickland, J. W., Jr., Mt. Vernon, 1945  
 Swain, Mrs. E. L., Davenport, 1952  
 Tarr, Miss Margherita, Ames, 1946  
 Tay, Mrs. Warren, Cedar Falls, 1952  
 Terlow, J. W., University Park, 1950  
 Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. O. S., Rock Rapids, 1929  
 Thornburg, Mrs. Ross J., Tucson, Ariz., 1937  
 Thornton, Mrs. P. C., Storm Lake, 1951  
 Tillapaugh, Miss Iola, Cedar Rapids, 1942  
 Tobin, John, Vinton, 1938  
 Tone, Robert L., Gilman, 1950  
 Treichler, Miss Ruth, Kellerton, 1950  
 (S) Tri-City Bird Club, Davenport, 1949  
 Turnbull, Mrs. H. W., Diagonal, '44  
 Upp, Mrs. Orville, Ottumwa, 1950  
 Vane, Dr. and Mrs. Robt. F., Cedar Rapids, 1940 and 1946  
 Van Orsdol, Wilma, Cedar Rapids, 1949  
 Von Ohlen, Dr. Floyd W., Fairfield, 1950  
 Walter, Miss Edra, Dubuque, 1952  
 Weaver, Miss Gertrude S., Sioux City, 1946  
 Weber, Alois John, Keokuk, 1929  
 Weston, Henry G., Jr., Grinnell, 1952  
 Willcockson, Lynn, Des Moines, 1952  
 Williams, Chester W., Wellesley, Mass., 1946  
 Willis, Miss Myra G., Cedar Rapids, 1940  
 Wistey, Mrs. Lloyd, South English, 1942  
 Wolden, Mrs. B. O., Estherville, 1939  
 Wood, Miss Vida, Oskaloosa, 1949  
 Worley, Charles, Ottumwa, 1952  
 Young, Miss Mary H., McAllen, Texas, 1940  
 Youngworth, Wm. G., Sioux City, '26

#### LIBRARIES

- Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque, 1931  
 Central Michigan College Library, Mt. Pleasant, Mich., 1952  
 Curriculum Lab., Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, 1950  
 Iowa State Traveling Library, Des Moines, 1940  
 Library, Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, 1939  
 Library, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 1931  
 McGill University Library, Montreal, Que., 1932  
 Public Library, Cedar Rapids, 1931  
 Public Library, Council Bluffs, 1931  
 Public Library, Davenport, 1947  
 Public Library, Des Moines, 1931  
 Public Library, Glenwood, 1952  
 Public Library, Marshalltown, 1946  
 Public Library, Sioux City, 1931  
 Science Museum Public Library, Minneapolis, Minn., 1952  
 State College of Washington Library, Pullman, Wash., 1945  
 University of Illinois Library, Urbana, Ill., 1942

### IOU MEMBERSHIP ATTENTION!

Twenty years ago a pound of coffee cost 19c at the grocer's. Today's price is 79c. Twenty years ago the IOU got along nicely on \$1.00 annual dues. Today, we are struggling to keep going on the \$2.00 minimum just adopted this year. RIGHT NOW the Union needs the help of all its loyal members!

Our Secretary reports that we are losing members, some for the reason of the increased dues. If you know any persons who have dropped their membership, please talk to them and get them to rejoin. If you know others who should be IOU members, take their dues and send the money to Mrs. Crossley, our Secretary-Treasurer.

Our most important link of the chain that holds together the ornithologists (professional as well as hobbyist) of our state is this publication, "Iowa Bird Life." Without adequate funds we are in danger of losing it. Publication costs have gone up just like the price of coffee.

Folks haven't given up their coffee! And they shouldn't give up interest in BIRD LIFE!—ALBERT C. BERKOWITZ, President, Iowa Ornithologists' Union.